



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

## DRAIN TILES.

Will you, through the columns of the Maine Farmer, state the process of making drain tiles, the kind of clay necessary, manner by which they are moulded, and the method of drying and burning them? Will you also give such information as you may be able, in relation to the strength of this pottery, in resisting the influence of frost, and any other information connected with the laying of drains with these tiles?

Winslow, Feb. 21, 1858. AGRICULTURIST.

NOTE. Drain tiles are made by machinery, the construction of which could not be well understood without call to illustrate the description. They are called "tiles," but are, in fact, clay tubes or quills, about a foot in length, and three or four inches in diameter, with a hole through them an inch or inch and a half or more in diameter. Two kinds are generally made, one a simple cylinder, and the other made like a horse shoe, placed on the heel and toe uppermost. In laying them for use, they are placed firmly on the bottom of the trench end to end, and covered over deep enough to prevent the frost from ever reaching them. The water soaks in at the joints of the ends and passes off. Any clay that will make bricks will do for tile, some use them when thoroughly sun dried, but they should be burnt, though it is not necessary that they should be burnt very hard. We do not know the cost of a good tile machine, probably from one to two hundred dollars, but we have no doubt should there be much call for tiles (and there ought to be) Yankee ingenuity would soon turn out any number of inventions that would simplify and cheapen their manufacture.

It requires some skill and judgment to plan where the drains should be dug, to effect the most drainage at the least cost. When this is done, any body can dig the drain and lay the tile. It should be below the reach of the frost in winter, otherwise the water in the tubes will freeze and burst them out. It does not require the strongest or best of clay to be put into them when manufactured.

They are now made abundantly in Albany, New York, from two and a half to eight inches diameter, and sold from \$12 to \$75 per thousand according to size and quality.

## WAIVES FROM OUR COPY DRAFTER.

BROOK PARS. Mr. Daniel Holden, of Oufield, gives the following as his preventive for buggies peas:—"For two years, I have planted peas in the hill with potatoes, and have not seen a bug, although the first potatoes were buggy. Whether it was the potatoes, or late planting, that has saved them, I do not know. Some of the seed, the first year, were nine-tenths buggy."

SCRATCHES FOR HORSES. A subscriber sends us the following remedy for scratches in horses:—"To cure the scratches, cleanse the blood with salt water, by giving a table spoonful every other day, for ten or twelve days. At the same time wash the parts affected with warm water and castile soap, and after washing and wiping dry, apply a quantity of lamp oil."

A LARGE CALF. Mr. Charles Bishop, of Curtis' Corner, has a bull calf that weighed, when twenty-four hours old, 118 lbs., and he thinks it cannot be beaten in Androscoggin county.

THE GREAT COW STORY. A week or two ago, we copied an account from the Bangor Courier of a cow owned by Mr. Moses Wood, of that city, from whose milk was made thirty pounds of butter, in twelve days, in January last, besides using milk for the family. We have received a communication from Mr. W., in which he says:—"The statement, because not universally believed, should not be deemed incredible. The amount was perfectly correct, it being the first two churning after the cow calved. The first churning produced twelve pounds of butter from five days' milk, and the second, eighteen pounds, in seven days. Any further information regarding this cow may be had by applying to me."

A PROFITABLE PATCH OF LAND. As an illustration of the profits of a "little farm well tilled," we copy the following from one of our exchanges: From a half acre of land at Farmington, Henry Mygatt raised \$100 worth of potatoes, 1,500 cabbages, which sold for \$60, and turnips enough to bring the whole crop up to \$200. The cabbages were set out between the rows of potatoes after the last hoeing, and the turnips were sown soon after the potatoes were dug.

CHILBLAINS. Our contemporary of the Granite Farmer copies our receipt for the cure of chilblains, by washing them in the water in which potatoes have been boiled, applied at as high a temperature as the patient can bear, and takes occasion to recommend another method of cure, which he says is perfectly reliable, as follows: Rx.—2 oz. mutton tallow, 1 oz. best olive oil, 4 oz. pure white wax, 4 oz. gum camphor, pulverized, 4 oz. spirits turpentine.

First melt the wax, then add the tallow, and when this melts add the oil; now put in the camphor, remove from the fire, and stir in the spirits turpentine. The liquid should now be poured into whatever box or dish you intend to keep it for, for burns, also, this salve is invaluable.

ANDROSTOCK CROPS. The Androstock Pioneer sets forth the capabilities of Androstock county in the most forcible manner. Within a circuit of five miles from Presque Isle, during the last year, there were raised by forty-seven persons, 7420 bushels oats, 2500 bushels of wheat, 348 bushels of rye, 4400 bushels of cleaned clover seed. At the average price of these articles, since harvest, they would have brought \$41,333.80, nearly. And this was but a small part of the yield of the county. A little reflection will show at once the great business which a railroad to the Androstock would at once bring to our doors.

## FARMERS' CLUBS.

ANSON. Another Farmer's Club is announced as in operation in Anson. The officers elected, are: President—Thomas Gray. Vice-President—Amos Hutchins. Secretary—Asa W. Moore.

Committee on Subjects—Wm. R. Flint, E. F. Withersell, L. S. Munter. The subject for discussion at the second meeting was the preparation and application of soils and fertilizers for different crops. We have seen no report of their discussions as yet.

WATERVILLE. Our friend of the Mail reports the sayings and doings at the meetings of the Farmers' Clubs of Waterville and Winslow, with a rare perception and discrimination. The facts brought out in discussion are carefully preserved, while the theories are, generally, left to care for themselves. We are indebted to him for the following account of the meeting of the 26th ult: "The winter keeping of stock occupied the evening, and was continued for further discussion. Mr. Josiah Morrill believed the best use of corn-fodder was to feed it to sheep. This was a new idea to some, and was carefully looked at. He said they would eat it closer than his heat stock, and that it kept them in as good heart as the best of hay. Several members stated their different modes of taking care of their stock; when the Chairman introduced as a visitor Mr. Vaughan, of Narragansett. Mr. Vaughan is a zealous farmer, and is engaged on an ordinary farm, in working out and demonstrating the theories he has conceived by extensive travel and observation. He stated his system of farming, and detailed his process of restoring fertilizers. His leading ideas are, the restoration of worn out soils by deep plowing and thorough stirring; and the manufacture of dressing from the resources of the farm, instead of buying foreign fertilizers. To the defense of these he brought a good array of science, common sense, and practical demonstration. In a few years he had brought a poor farm to more than double its productivity, merely by careful attention to the means possessed within itself. His fixtures for saving manures were described; and though ingenious, they were neither expensive or difficult of construction. Every waste straw and stray bone was made to contribute to next year's harvest, and substances which had no merit in themselves, were converted into absorbents of the virtues of other substances. Mr. Vaughan alluded to the necessity for the more general diffusion of agricultural science among farmers; and took occasion to express his decided dissent from the popular idea of an agricultural college. He proposed a substitute, for which he said he was not partial, but had no faith that the benefits anticipated from the proposed college would ever be realized, even if the measure was adopted. We heartily endorse his views on this last point, and earnestly hope the scheme of an agricultural college will find no further favor with legislation, till it shall have been fairly examined and demanded by the farmers themselves."

WINSLOW. The meeting of last week, says the Mail of the 4th inst., was well attended, and the conversation relative to the profit of farm stock was animated and interesting. It was finally voted that sheep yield the farmer the greatest net profit of any stock kept. Various opinions were presented showing different estimates and modes of keeping stock. At the same time Mr. Drummond advocated high feeding, especially for stock. A pair of yearling steers would cost him over fifty dollars; though, past prices, under favorable circumstances, would pay for raising at this rate. Few there estimated the expense so high. Mr. Benj. Furber thought well of sheep for farm stock, and thought they might be kept for a dollar and a half a year. This estimate agreed with those offered by others, though Mr. Charles Cushman thought it rather low. Statements of several flocks showed large profits, counting two dollars for the expense of keeping. It was the opinion of several that a horse cost the raiser very near one hundred dollars at four years old. There was considerable difference of opinion in regard to the profit of raising horses—one estimating them the most profitable stock he raised, and another feeling pretty sure of a dead loss on each. Nobody seemed disposed to disparage the cow except by giving the sheep a rank above her.

OFFICERS OF AG. SOCIETIES. NORTH FRANKLIN. The officers of the North Franklin Ag. Society, for the present year, are as follows:— President—Enoch Craig. Vice Presidents—Peter A. J. Norton, S. H. Beck, Rufus Brett. Recording and Corresponding Secretary—M. W. Dutton, Phillips. Treasurer—Winthrop Norton. Trustees—J. R. Norton, S. D. Davis, Wm. Witham, R. W. Libby, Asst. Dyar. Member of Board of Agriculture—Seward Dill. NORTH ANDROSTOCK. The annual meeting of this Society was held at Lincoln, on the 9th ult., and the following persons were elected officers for the present year: President—Wm. C. Hammond, Howland. Vice Presidents—Asa Smith, Mattawamkeag; John S. Patten, Enfield; Wm. Stevens, Carroll. Corresponding and Recording Secretary—P. M. Clark, Springfield. Treasurer—D. S. Plimley, Lincoln. Agent and Librarian—B. Whitten, Lee. Trustees—Joseph Hammond, Lincoln; H. C. Hall, Lincoln; John Treat, Enfield; Asa Smith, Mattawamkeag; T. C. Burleigh, Springfield; H. Stevens, Carroll; A. B. Brown, Chester; B. Whitten, Lee; Smith Gilman, Jr., Enfield.

THE CANADIAN WHEAT CROP—EFFECT OF THE MILK WEATHER. The Toronto Globe says "the extraordinary mildness of the winter thus far has deprived the wheat fields, of their usual covering of snow and exposed the plant to great danger from the alternate freezing and thawing of the surface. We noticed yesterday that the frost of the previous night, which was more severe than usual, had given to the wheat fields a color quite different from that of a few days ago. Winter wheat in Canada is always a surer and a better crop when it is a good covering of snow. We fear, from present appearances, that next year's crop will prove a short one."

A NEW CORN-DROPPER. As the prejudice against the use of labor-saving machines in farming wears away, more call is made for them, and more ingenuity is exerted in getting them up. Two or three very simple and efficient machines for dropping corn and beans at one operation, but in different hills, have just been invented in Monmouth, in this county. The one which we shall speak of now, is the joint invention of Geo. F. Rowell and Daniel P. Boynton, which they have taken measures to secure a patent upon. It operates by a staff, to the bottom of which is attached a box containing two compartments, and a slide, operated by the lifting and setting down the staff. By the alternate pushing back and forth of the slide, a certain number of beans and of kernels of corn, are taken and deposited, each in their respective hills. It does not cover them. The whole is cheap, and within the reach of every one. Other seeds may be dropped by it, if desired. We have no doubt that farmers will find it a useful help in the planting field.

For the Maine Farmer.

## BETHEL FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' CLUB.

The seventh session of the season was held at John A. Twitchell's, Feb. 24th, 1858, N. T. True, President, in the chair.

Subject for discussion—Plowing, and the application of manures. The President called attention to the fact that we can never be sure of being in the right direction without a correct knowledge of principles. He would present one with reference to the present subject. If you take a glass tube the size of a hair, dip one end in water, it will instantly rush up the tube above the level of the water outside. This is called capillary attraction. The same illustration is seen imperfectly in a lump of sugar by dipping a corner of it in water, the water diffuses itself through the lump. All granulated and porous substances possess this property to a certain extent. Now let us apply this to the soil. If it be thoroughly pulverized, it becomes more porous, and better adapted to withstand drought. But how? It is broken up into millions of capillary tubes, imperfect to be sure, but sufficient to draw up moisture from below, and with it lime and other soluble salts as food for plants. Few persons are aware of the extent of this power.

To illustrate, take a glass tube one inch in diameter, fill it with perfectly dry sand, set one end in the water of a pail, and in a single night the water will work up through the sand the depth of twelve or fifteen inches.

Dr. Fanning remarked that in N. York, where he resided, the surface of the ground would be excessively dry, and they covered the surface of their garden with dry sand to prevent evaporation.

The President replied,—"we here have a beautiful exemplification of an apparent exception to a general law adjusted to a special case. Let me take the hair like tubes of glass and leave the upper ends open, water will not evaporate from them. Why, we cannot readily explain, but such is the fact. Now see if the covering of sand does not act on the same principle. The surface of a saturated sponge will evaporate to a certain extent, but in a short time it will be arrested and evaporate with difficulty."

Let us apply this principle to a soil. A hard impenetrable soil will become dry very soon, but it has no capillary tubes to bring up the moisture from below, while a light porous soil is not only absorbing the gases from the atmosphere, but the mineral salts from beneath. A solid piece of charcoal will absorb but little gaseous matter, but pulverize it and its absorbent power is immensely increased; so with a hard and well pulverized soil. When porous it absorbs the atmosphere, without which a seed can never germinate or grow.

Farmers fall much here in not thoroughly pulverizing the soil for a crop. He had noticed the good effects of repeated plowing and harrowing in the garden and field. It was remarked at a previous meeting that after a dry season we had good crops. He thought that the extremely dry soil became slackened and more pulverized by the subsequent rains, and thus the ground was fitted for the future crop. The limited time allowed the farmers of Maine in spring to prepare the ground is a difficulty, but he had noticed that the farmer who was particular in this feature of husbandry was sure of good crops. We all would look with contempt on the man who would make a garden without carefully preparing the ground. It is a hard matter for the farmers of Maine to carry the principles and practice of the garden to the field.

Hiram Twitchell. I call seven inches deep plowing on our uplands, and one foot very deep plowing on our interales, and I never plowed to that depth but once, but it still shows the benefit of it. My practice is to plow my corn ground twice in the spring, and harrow it three times, and I never fail of a good crop. I can see a marked difference in a crop between good and bad harrowing. Poor plowing makes hard labor to cultivate. I hill my potatoes well and never had the rot till last year, and then but a little. I prefer to pull the weeds after the first hoeing, if the ground has been well prepared in spring. Josiah Brown. Land that has been long sapped should be well worked over for a crop. Different plants require different kinds of manure. This is a study of itself. What will make a good cabbage will not succeed for a carrot.

Moses A. Mason. It is better not to disturb hog manure till ready to put into the ground. I plow ten inches deep with Michigan plow, but need one additional yoke of cattle over the other form of plow.

Stephen Holt, Jr. I plow as deep as I can, and get all the manure I can. No special advantage in plowing swales deep unless they are previously drained in a thorough manner.

Francis Barker. I plow my interales seven inches deep, modifying the depth according to the soil. I cultivate for the present crop. I find a mixture of hog and horse manure best, for my corn, letting the hogs make the mixture.

David F. Brown. I plow as deep as I can, a foot or more with one of Hersey's largest size plows. Have seen it in low grounds as deep as two feet. My meadow is drained at the depth of two feet. Put on my manure and harrow it

in. It is better to sow on our meadow and low lands with red top.

Gilman Chapman. I think it better to plow four inches deep for immediate benefit for corn. My father plows so with his little old red corral horse and always gets good corn.

Dr. J. Grover. Whether we have deep or shallow plowing, pulverize well. The theory of deep plowing is good,—there is a constant decomposition of the soil itself. Land well tilled gives the roots of plants a much greater range.

Dr. Fanning would only remark that deep soil is the best for general improvement.

Timothy Barker. I once had the benefit of a freshet which brought on to my field the plowed land of my neighbor, and a large quantity of sand from a sand-bank. It was so deep that I could not plow through it. I raised a great crop of potatoes and good corn, but it did not catch well into grass. I obtained on one and one-half acres 70 bushels of wheat. This was twenty years ago.

The discussion was spirited, and it was an interesting sight to witness the zeal and spirit of inquiry around our best farmers. The ladies became impatient for our company which we were glad to join, and eat our host's good apples.

The next meeting will be held at Mr. Francis Barker's. Subject for discussion—Insects injurious to vegetation.

Eight volumes of good books were added to the library. N. T. T.

For the Maine Farmer.

## AN ANALYSIS OF THE TEMPERATURE OF FEBRUARY, FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, ENDING FEB. 23, 1858.

Time of observations.	No. of days below zero.					No. of days above zero.				
	Below 0° & 10°	Below 10° & 20°	Below 20° & 30°	Below 30° & 40°	Below 40° & 50°	Above 50°	Above 60°	Above 70°	Above 80°	Above 90°
1854.—S. R.	0	1	7	7	3	7	3	0	0	0
1855.—S. R.	0	0	0	6	10	6	5	0	1	0
1856.—S. R.	1	2	4	11	7	5	4	0	0	0
1857.—S. R.	1	2	2	2	6	7	10	0	0	0
1858.—S. R.	1	4	10	10	7	2	7	0	0	0
1854.—P. M.	0	1	2	5	13	4	2	0	0	0
1855.—P. M.	0	1	2	3	10	10	1	0	0	0
1856.—P. M.	0	2	1	2	5	13	4	2	0	0
1857.—P. M.	0	1	2	3	7	10	1	0	0	0
1858.—P. M.	0	1	2	3	7	6	5	4	0	0
1854.—S. R.	0	0	0	6	9	8	0	0	0	0
1855.—S. R.	0	0	1	4	8	9	3	3	0	0
1856.—S. R.	0	0	1	9	10	6	2	0	0	0
1857.—S. R.	0	0	1	9	10	6	2	0	0	0
1858.—S. R.	0	0	1	9	10	6	2	0	0	0

Feb. 2d. Sunrise. 1 P. M. 13.11°  
1854. 10.54° 19.18° 13.11°  
1855. 10.97° 20.47° 13.30°  
1856. 10.34° 21.11° 14.33°  
1857. 21.71° 31.63° 24.41°  
1858. 9.21° 21.61° 13.68°

Below are a few rules, the results of my own observations, and those of others, for prognosticating the future state of the weather.

1st. If the thermometer be observed to rise between 6 and 9 o'clock P. M., look out for a storm within 24 hours.

2d. If smoke is seen to settle down in the low lands, a storm may be expected soon.

3d. I take the following from Quign's Isle of Man Almanack—"the reverse of which I find to hold true in this country. Dr. Kirwan remarks: "If a storm arise from the East, on, or immediately preceding, the time of the spring equinox, or from any point of the compass, near a week, then, in either of these cases, the succeeding summer is dry, four times out of five; but if a storm arise from the S. W., or W. S. W., on, or just before, the spring equinox, the summer following is wet, five times in six."

By the reverse, I mean, that the wind must be in the opposite direction mentioned in the above rule, to produce the same results.

English proverb: "An evening red and a morning gray, Are sure signs of a fair day."

Be the evening gray and the morning red, Put on your hat or you'll wet your head."

Monmouth, March 4, 1858. E. W.

For the Maine Farmer.

THE CORN WEEVIL. Mr. Editor.—I send you two of the serpents that are eating my seed corn. Can you tell what they are and how to kill them? The corn was raised in 1856. If you can give me any information about them you will much oblige.

A SUBSCRIBER. Blanchard, January 25, 1858.

NOTE. The kernels of Indian corn that had the "serpents" in them, of which "a subscriber" speaks, came safely, and have had a comfortable chance in a warm corner of our office. Since then, they have "waxed fat and kicked" out of the corn, and are strutting about in the form of a small worm or maggot.

We cannot tell "for certain" what particular species they are, but they undoubtedly belong to the true corn weevil tribe. If they savor with you long enough to undergo their transformations, we shall be able to identify the species and tell its name. In the mean time if our friend will put some of his maggoty corn into a bottle with a piece of gauze tied over the mouth, and let it stand some time, he will find that the worm will change into a bug or fly, and he will then have the true parent of the mischief in its perfect shapes.

MANAGEMENT OF THE BARN. Let the utmost neatness be observed in the management of the barn. No more fodder should be thrown on the floor at once than is requisite to supply one feed. By throwing large quantities from the mows or scaffolding, there is an unavoidable loss from the drying of the fibre, which renders it less palatable to the animals, as well as less nutritious. Sweeping the floor daily promotes cleanliness, and conduces to the health and consequently the comfort of animals. The "tie-ups" and "stanchels" as well as the mangers, cribs, &c., should be daily cleaned out and frequently washed. An occasional white washing should be given to the ceilings and partitions; its sanitary effects are well known, and of a nature too indisputably obvious to admit of doubt. Vermin rarely infest barns or animals treated in this way.

PROFESSOR HENS. Selah Galpin, of Westfield, Conn., last year kept fifty hens, which gave him five hundred and eight dozen eggs, and raised thirty chickens. They consumed thirty-four bushels of corn and five bushels of buckwheat.

## PRIZE ESSAY.

Read before the State Ag. Society, at Bangor, September, 1857.

BY MRS. H. WISCHKESTER, OF BANGOR.

I have been practically acquainted with butter making for more than twenty years, and hope I shall be able to give some plain directions for making good butter, which will be valuable to young housewives; whilst those who know more about it than I do will be induced, by my example, to communicate their knowledge to the public for the benefit of others.

I believe it is as easy to make good butter as that of an inferior quality. In the first place, to make good butter, we must have good milk. More depends on the quality of the milk, than any other. Some cows give richer milk than others. The cows which give poor milk should be sold to the butchers, and their places supplied by good ones. They should have pure water, and good rich grasses, or fodder, in abundance, because the milk is flavored by the food. Turnips, or garlic, for example, impart their peculiar taste to the milk, and so do all kinds of food on which the cows feed, though some taint it more than others. In winter, if cows are fed on poor hay, their milk will be poor, the butter white and of an inferior quality. The excellence of June butter is owing to the rich young grasses which are so abundant at that time. The farmer should see that his cows are supplied with the best of food if he would have good butter. Corn fodder, carrots, pumpkins, beets, and Indian meal, or shorts, are good for fall and winter feeding.

It is not necessary to say that the milk room and dishes should be clean, for all admit it. But every one does not know how important it is to have pure air in the dairy room,—to see that it is as far removed as possible from all impure odors, or anything that will taint the atmosphere, and thus injure the butter. The milk room should be clean, cool, dry, airy and well ventilated. Flies may be excluded by a wire gauze screen in the window. The temperature should range from 35° to 65°, as cream separates best in a cool place. I find that milk which is set to rise in a hot room, will very soon become sour, will not yield so much cream, and will make soft, oily butter, which will soon become rancid. The dairy should front the north, and be shaded by trees, so as to admit the light and air, but exclude the sunshine and heat.

I am now using "Davis' patent Woolly Fair Churn." I like it because it churns easily, and separates the butter from the milk quicker and better than any other churn I know of. The churn should not be soaked over night. Put in a quart of boiling water, churn it one minute, then draw it off and pour in a pailful of cold water to remain in the churn five minutes, and your churn is ready to use. As soon as you have done with it, wash it well, dry it, and put it in a dry place. Churning should be done early in the morning, while it is cool. Rapid churning is not the best; but if the cream is acid, and of right temperature, it will require less than half an hour. The temperature of cream, to churn best, should be 62°. Cream must be slightly acid, before it will make butter, and in cool weather, it must be put in a warm place for that purpose. I never scald my milk, or cream, because it gives the butter a flavor which I do not like, and it is useless labor. I use tin pans to set my milk in, because they are light to handle, and are easily kept sweet and clean. Milk should be skimmed before it becomes acid in the least degree. The first cream that rises is the best, both in flavor and color. The milk should not set more than twenty-four hours, and it is better if skimmed in twelve hours, as what little might be lost in quantity would be gained in quality. Recently I churned out sixteen gallons of milk, set it twenty-four hours, skimmed nine quarts of cream from it, and churned nine pounds of butter,—thus obtaining nine ounces of butter from a gallon of milk. The cream should be kept in stone or glass jars, or well glazed or enameled ware, as the acid corrodes common coarse glazing, and it imparts poison to the cream. Too much care cannot be taken to have our food pure from mineral poisons. I wish our housewives understood this matter better than they do. The cream should not be covered except by a gauze, which will not exclude the air. I put an ounce of fine salt into a three gallon jar when I begin to fill it with cream, and stir the cream well morning and evening. It should not be kept more than a week.

As soon as the butter has come hard, I draw off the butter-milk, and remove the butter into a long wooden tray. Then I press out the butter-milk with hard-wood clappers, and mix in, by weight, 1 lb. of fine salt to the pound. Placing the butter in one end of the tray, which is slightly raised, so as to drain it, I leave it for the salt to combine with it, until the next morning. I then work it over thoroughly (but not long enough to heat it, or make it like lard), and mix in two ounces of white sugar to ten pounds of butter. If it is for present use, I make it into balls and stamp it. But if it is intended to be kept for winter, I put it down salt in stone jars, sprinkling a very little fine salt on the surface, and covering it with a thick, fine cloth, put on the lid and place the jar in a dry, cool place. It is better to fill the jar with each churning; but if not able to do so, pack in each churning solid, and exclude the air till you get the jar full. If it is to be kept a long while, or sent to sea, pour a little melted butter over the top of the jar before you put on the cloth. I have put down butter in this way in September, and kept it till the next June as good as newly-churned butter.

It is very important to have good salt to use, for some salt gives the butter an unpleasant taste, and prevents it from keeping well. I wish it to be noticed particularly that I do not wash my butter, nor allow any water, hot or cold, to be put in with the cream to raise or lower the temperature when I churn. It is very injurious to it. It washes out the flavor and sweetness from it, makes it insipid, and soon turns it rancid. The water which remains in it, injures it more than the butter-milk. I do not believe it is possible to preserve butter well for any length of time, that has been washed. Some one should superintend the dairy to see that all is done as it should be.

HINTS FOR THE SEASON. EARLY LAWS. Those who breed lambs for an early market have them dropped mostly during this month. As there is no grass for the ewes, extra care and feeding is necessary to preserve the lambs, and provide a due supply of milk for their support. A moderate quantity of roots, if on hand, or if not a full supply of rowen hay is the best food for that object. If neither of them be on hand, soaked oats may be substituted. If roots are used and the weather be cold, they should not be given in large quantities, as they are cold and watery, and incline the ewes to scour. A quart of cut roots is sufficient for a day, and of all kinds carrots are the best, if you have them, if not, provide them for the next year. With all the claims of the superiority of roots as green food, by some people, our experience is against it, in cold weather, having practised it long enough to know. And our opinion is corroborated by some of the best English and Scotch farmers, in their own practice since coming to the United States.

Dry and warm shelter is also necessary, with plenty of straw bedding. When the lambing season arrives, the ewes should be carefully looked over, and those nearest their time taken out and separated from the others and put under warm shelter, so as not to be crowded and overrun by the others. After the lambs are a few days old and well to the teat, they, with the ewes may be turned out into the open yard, with an adjoining shelter to go under at choice. No young thing is harder than a lamb, with enough to eat, and plenty of fresh air and exercise should be allowed to them. Give them a good start, and when the grass comes nothing will drive or fat faster; and the little extra pains devoted to their early production will be amply compensated in their rapid growth and early development; while nothing on the farm, in the stock line, pays better in a ready market, and a quick return.

SPRING CHICKENS are always in active demand from May to September, in the vicinity of all our cities, and the larger towns. Of course they are profitable to the farmers, and small landholders and cottagers, who breed them. This is a good month to set the hens, and hatch them out. For this purpose, a warm hen-house, and coops in sunny places are required. Let the eggs be kept in a proper temperature, till the hen is ready to sit on them. Thirteen is the proper number for a clutch of chickens. When hatched, if milk cows can be had, this is their best food. If not, soaked bread for the first few days, and after that Indian meal well cooked, like mush for your own table. Raw meal, wet up in the usual way, is harsh and scours for their delicate stomachs. When a few weeks old, chopped cabbage, "sives," and other tender vegetables, are to be added, and sour milk is the very best drink they can have.

We would by all means entrust the early chickens to woman's care. She seems to possess the necessary instincts—worth all the boys and men in the country. We have known a Scotch, Irish or Dutch washerwoman's cottage, surrounded by a close wall, alive with early chickens, when the gentleman's and farmer's promises would scarce supply a fowl for the table before September.

Don't keep the "big" breeds for "spring chickens" either. A close, compact, early matured fowl is the thing for this purpose. In most large towns a plump fat chick, the size of a quail, will sell for as much in May or June, as a full-grown one will in October; and if they only know you have them, the tavern keepers and peddlars will have them every day in the week. To the habit these latter people have of confining them in close, filthy coops for days together, we enter our protest. It is cruel to the chickens. It poisons and defiles the taste of the flesh. It makes them poor. Exercise, good air, and plenty of good food they should have till wanted for the table; and every one who keeps them on hand for immediate use, should be well provided with yards and roosting accommodation. To make chickens edibly perfect they should come upon the table plump, juicy, and full of their own natural gravy. "Plump as a partridge," is the term which should always be truthfully applied to the early chicken; and if they be not so, half their excellence is lost, while, if in perfection of flesh, they are a positive luxury. [American Agriculturist.]

WHAT A GREAT FOUNDRY IS DOING. At this time there is work being done at the Novelty Works for the Russian, Austrian, Egyptian, and Spanish governments. The first vessel built at this establishment for the Russian government was so satisfactory that they ordered a fine steam frigate, which will be called the "Japanese," also another vessel, that will be the largest ever built in this city. She will be 7000 tons, and like the vessel now being finished, will be a screw propelled. The entire cost will probably exceed \$1,000,000. The work done for the Egyptian Viceroy is a monstrous pump, that is to be put up with a hydraulic engine for pumping, upon the banks of the Nile, to draw off water for the purpose of irrigating the fields. It will probably cost \$300,000 or \$400,000, and will be finished early in March. For the Austrian government there is being made hydraulic machinery, engines, cradles and locomotives, to be used with dry docks similar to those put up at Philadelphia and Pensacola, for the United States government. This work will be finished in the course of four or five months. The work being done for the Spanish government, are massive lath











